

**MINUTES**  
**Page 1 of 3**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MONDAY, MAY 22, 2006**  
**SPECIAL SESSION**  
**COMMUNITY ROOM, CHENERY MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**7:00 PM**

**Call to Order**

A special meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:00 PM in the Community Room at the Chenery Middle School. All members were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were also present.

**Questions from Town Residents**

There were no questions.

**Action by Appointment**

*Discussion of Committee Appointment Process*

Chairman Solomon said that beginning on Monday, June 5, the Board will discuss committee appointments at every meeting in June. The Board asked Mr. Younger to e-mail the Selectmen a list of committee membership and resumes of volunteers, attendance records and statements from incumbents. The Board may decide to begin with non-controversial or obvious appointments before moving on to the tougher decisions.

Chairman Solomon said he has heard from a number of people who want to revive the Recycling Committee, including two current members, Janice Biederman and Joe Curro. Others interested include Deb Lockett, Mary Beakman, and Mary Tinkham. They have been asked to send in their information as soon as possible in order to be considered for appointment. Public Works Director Peter Castanino will re-draft the Committee's charge.

The Board agreed to consider as part of this process which committees, if any, can be dissolved.

*Discussion of Town Meeting Issues*

*Article 26: Senior Property Tax Deferral*

Chairman Solomon reported that the Warrant Committee voted 13-2 against the Board's suggested amendment to change the proposed interest rate from 4.5% to 6.5%. They felt that neither rate provided any economic benefit to seniors. He said given this opposition it would be good if the Assessors would agree to dismiss the article.

Selectman Firenze said that the Assessors have indicated they do not wish to dismiss it and stated that the Warrant Committee's vote does not change his support for the measure. He noted that Belmont Savings Bank is working on coming up with a new plan to address this need.

There was discussion of Lexington's decision to implement a rate which is tied for each year to a Federal Reserve rate. Selectman Brownsberger said he is not drawn to this solution.

Mr. Younger said that the Assessors will make the original motion at 4.5%. If the Board wishes, it can make the amendment to go to 6.5%. Selectman Firenze suggested that the Selectmen play it by ear and see what kind of support there is for this. There was agreement.

#### *Article 2: Historic Accessory Buildings*

The Board discussed an amendment that had been drafted by James Heigham which would prohibit the use of a historic accessory building as a dwelling. Mr. Heigham appeared before the Board and clarified that he decided not to file the amendment.

#### *Benton Library*

Mr. Younger noted that ultimately, it is the Library Trustees' decision whether to close the Benton Library or not. Over the last three years, the library has not spent the aid it has been getting from the state, so they have over \$110,000 which they can spend.

Selectman Firenze noted that even if Town Meeting votes to give the library more money, they would not necessarily choose to use it for the Benton Library. Selectman Brownsberger asked if a floor amendment on this would be binding on the Trustees. Mr. Younger said we are not certain.

#### **Other**

There was discussion of a letter from a resident regarding cemetery work being done on Concord Avenue. Ellen Cushman, Chair of the Cemetery Commission, will send the resident a copy of the letter she sent to resident Dix Campbell on this issue.

Selectman Brownsberger asked about the status of the claim of Vickie Alani against the Town for damage to her automobile. He stated for the record that Ms. Alani is a supporter of his and a contributor to his campaign. Mr. Conti said that Ms. Alani will receive a

letter from the Town shortly offering to settle this claim and it is hoped the matter can be resolved quickly. The Selectmen urged that this be expedited.

Mr. Brownsberger discussed a letter from a resident on Pleasant Street stating that a telephone pole is being moved from the street right to the property line in front of his house.

Selectman Firenze reported that he, Mr. Younger, and Acting Police Chief Richard Lane met with property owners on Pleasant Street regarding a building that had been vandalized. He said there has been significant damage and graffiti. Chief Lane suggested to the owners that they lock the windows of the building and possibly install an alarm system.

The Board noted it remains eager to work with the owners to find a buyer for the property. Selectman Firenze said that he may try to put together a development deal for the property himself if it would not create a conflict of interest.

The Board recessed at 7:28 PM until the convening of Town Meeting and adjourned at the conclusion of Town Meeting.

---

Thomas G. Younger  
Town Administrator